AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for rapidly decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:

contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising from about 10 mM to about 150 mM dipicolinic acid and an effective amount of calcium ions effective to cause rapid germination of the spores; and,

concurrently, applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

- 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.
- 5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.
- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.

8.-9. (Cancelled)

- 10. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50% w/w to about 98% w/w water of the total spore germination composition.
- 11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises a surfactant.
- 12. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.
- 13. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one carbon chain of from about six carbon members or more.
- 14. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the surfactant comprises from about 5% w/w to about 15% w/w of the total spore germination composition.
- 15. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises enzymes.
- 16. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a peroxygen compound.

17.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM dipicolinic acid.